

In the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of the claims currently pending in the present application:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled)

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61. (New) A method for importing specifications from a product design document for use in manufacturing testing software, the method comprising the computer implemented steps of:

(a) extracting test specification data from an electronic design document, wherein the design document is in a structured format containing both data and metadata;

(b) translating the extracted test specification data into a format that is readable by the testing software; and

(c) importing the translated test specification data into test executive software that manages testing and passes test specifications into applicable sections of underlying test library software that performs specific test functions.

62. (New) The method according to claim 61, wherein the test specifications may include:

product platform;

product code;

revision number;

product characteristics;

list of tests including test sequence;

test name;

test method;

test description;

test conditions;

test limits; and

resolution of digits.

63. (New) The method according to claim 61, wherein step (a) further comprises assembling a variable list containing test parameter values from said test specifications.

64. (New) The method according to claim 61, wherein the translated test specification data is stored in a database used by the testing software.

65. (New) The method according to claim 61, wherein the translated test specification data is stored in memory for immediate use by the testing software.

66. (New) The method according to claim 61, wherein the test specifications imported into the test executive include test specification types that are pre-defined by the test executive software.

67. (New) The method according to claim 61, wherein the test specifications imported into the test executive include user-defined test specification types.

68. (New) The method according to claim 61, further comprising:

(d) debugging and editing the test specifications with the test executive software in the event said design document contains mistakes; and
(e) exporting the edited test specifications into a second, revised design document.

69. (New) A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, for importing specifications from a product design document for use in manufacturing testing software, the computer program product comprising:

(a) first instructions for extracting test specification data from an electronic design document, wherein the design document is in a structured format containing both data and metadata;
(b) second instructions for translating the extracted test specification data into a format that is readable by the testing software; and
(c) third instructions for importing the translated test specification data into test executive software that manages testing and passes test specifications into applicable sections of underlying test library software that performs specific test functions.

70. (New) The computer program product according to claim 69, wherein the test specifications may include:

product platform;
product code;

revision number;
product characteristics;
list of tests including test sequence;
test name;
test method;
test description;
test conditions;
test limits; and
resolution of digits.

71. (New) The computer program product according to claim 69, wherein the first instructions (a) further comprise instructions for assembling a variable list containing test parameter values from said test specifications.
72. (New) The computer program product according to claim 69, wherein the translated test specification data is stored in a database used by the testing software.
73. (New) The computer program product according to claim 69, wherein the translated test specification data is stored in memory for immediate use by the testing software.
74. (New) The computer program product according to claim 69, wherein the test specifications imported into the test executive include test specification types that are pre-defined by the test executive software.
75. (New) The computer program product according to claim 69, wherein the test specifications imported into the test executive include user-defined test specification types.

76. (New) The computer program product according to claim 69, further comprising:

- (d) fourth instructions for debugging and editing the test specifications with the test executive software in the event said design document contains mistakes; and
- (e) fifth instructions for exporting the edited test specifications to a second revised design document.

77. (New) An apparatus for importing specifications from a product design document for use in manufacturing testing software, the apparatus comprising:

- (a) a data extraction mechanism for extracting test specification data from an electronic design document, wherein the design document is in a structured format containing both data and metadata;
- (b) a translator for translating the extracted test specification data into a format that is readable by the testing software; and
- (c) an import mechanism for importing the translated test specification data into test executive software that manages testing and passes test specifications into applicable sections of underlying test library software that performs specific test functions.

78. (New) The apparatus according to claim 77, wherein the translated test specification data is stored in a database used by the testing software.

79. (New) The apparatus according to claim 77, wherein the translated test specification data is stored in memory for immediate use by the testing software.